

THE LAW FIRM OF

CÉSAR DE CASTRO, P.C.

ATTORNEY AT LAW

The District
111 Fulton Street - 602
New York, New York 10038
631.460.3951 Office
646.285.2077 Mobile
646.839.2682 Facsimile
cdecastro@cdecastrolaw.com
cdecastrolaw.com

June 24, 2022

Via ECF

The Honorable Brian M. Cogan
United States District Court
Eastern District of New York
225 Cadman Plaza East
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Re: *United States v. Garcia Luna*, 19 Cr. 576 (BMC)

Dear Judge Cogan,

As the Court is aware, I represent Mr. Garcia Luna in the above-referenced matter. We write, with the consent of the government, to request a two-week extension to respond to the government's motions *in limine* filed on June 15, 2022.

First, in its motions *in limine*, the government moves to introduce 404(b) evidence that it believes establishes that Mr. Garcia Luna conspired with a jailhouse informant to tamper with witnesses and/or obstruct justice, allegations with which he has not been charged. The evidence that it has produced to the defense in this regard consists of more than 500 hours of recordings that are largely inaudible or unintelligible and primarily consist of statements made by the jailhouse informant and not Mr. Garcia Luna. There is no corresponding line sheets or summaries of the recordings, and the government has only provided us with transcripts of a handful of conversations. Listening to these audios has proven to be a herculean lift, especially with all the other tasks necessary to defend the actual charges in the case. The defense intends to bring to light facts relevant to the credibility of the jailhouse informant and provide the Court with examples of recordings that the defense believes, along with the informant's circumstances, will show the Court how unreliable and untrue these allegations are.

Second, the government is seeking to introduce evidence regarding allegations made by a journalist in Mexico of her belief that Mr. Garcia Luna, through others, somehow threatened her. The government does not identify the journalist, but we believe that it is a journalist that has been targeting Mr. Garcia Luna for decades with baseless allegations shrouded as journalism. Notably, she now appears to be making similar claims against Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador. The claims against Mr. Garcia Luna have been the subject of government hearings and numerous press stories in Mexico over the years. As with the jailhouse informant

recordings, the journalist's claims have taken a substantial amount of time to review and the government has provided us with no discovery related to these claims.

As to both of the government's claims, in our opposition we intend to demonstrate to the Court the unreliability of this alleged evidence and how allowing the admission of this evidence will likely result in trials within what will already be a lengthy and complex trial.

Accordingly, we request the Court allow the Defense an additional two weeks, or July 13, 2022, to respond to the government's motions *in limine*.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

César de Castro
Valerie Gotlib
Shannon McManus